



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 28, 2008

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DEQ to red-tag environmentally unsound underground storage tanks

BATON ROUGE – In response to a federal mandate, underground storage tanks that do not meet environmental regulations will be marked ineligible to receive fuel or any other product. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will begin placing red tags on storage tanks that are classified as environmentally unsound. Red tags will be placed on tanks that have not met required upgrade requirements or have not corrected deficiencies within 30 days of being notified.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires states to prohibit deliveries on underground storage tank systems that are found to be out of compliance with certain regulations.

Red tags will be tied around the tank fill ports on tanks that do not comply with standards. Deficiencies include underground storage tanks that are either unregistered, have not established a detection method for fuel release, or do not meet the 1998 upgrade requirements regarding spill and overfill prevention and corrosion protection.

Red-tagged facilities will be allowed to sell the remaining fuel in the affected tank, but fuel deliveries will not be allowed into the affected tank until the system has complied with regulations.

“By red-tagging the unsound underground storage tanks and by cutting off deliveries, the department is ensuring that these storage tanks will be in compliance in the future,” DEQ Senior Environmental Scientist Sam Broussard said. “Letters have been sent and distributors are being informed. Also, owners will be sent letters as the program is implemented so the red tags should not catch anyone off guard. This marks the time for underground storage tank owners to make sure they are in compliance with environmental regulations so they can avoid having their deliveries cut off. This plan also cuts down on toxic releases to the environment while saving costs associated with clean-up of those releases.”

In order to provide adequate notification to product deliverers, the DEQ will publish a list of red-tagged facilities on the DEQ website (www.deq.louisiana.gov). The list will be updated as facilities are added or removed. In addition, DEQ will contact all identified active bulk distributors every time red tags are applied or removed from any underground storage tank facility.

If you are a distributor that did not receive a letter, please call 337-262-5744.